

Virginia Cooperative Extension Services



Culpeper County 4-H

CALLING ALL YOUTH AGES 9 – 19 – HERE’S YOUR CHANCE TO SHINE!

4-H County Competitions will take place on April 1, 2006, from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. at Culpeper Middle School. Youth may compete in three different categories: Presentations/Public Speaking, Share-the-Fun (talent show), and Fashion Revue. Youth compete in 3 different age divisions. The purpose of this event is to give youth the opportunity to speak, perform, or model in front of a friendly audience so that they may share their talents and develop poise and self confidence. It’s all for fun. A modified Danish System is used to judge the events and award ribbons, meaning that individuals are not competing against each other, but are striving to meet a certain standard level of performance.

A Presentation can be an illustrated talk or a demonstration. Public speaking involves giving a speech without the use of visual props. In Share-the-Fun, an act may be: vocal, instrumental, dance, drama, variety (magic, puppetry, clowning, gymnastics, step, etc.), or a combination (song and dance, singing and playing an instrument, etc.). In the Fashion Revue, the outfit modeled may be constructed by the youth or selected and purchased.

No prior involvement with 4-H is necessary, but pre-registration is a must. For a complete brochure with all the details, please contact the Extension Office (727-3435). Join in the fun; come out and compete! Be sure to come and enjoy the show!

IT’S TIME TO THINK ABOUT 4-H SUMMER CAMP

4-H Summer Camp will be held from August 6 through August 10, 2006 at the 4-H Educational Center in Front Royal, Virginia. Camp is open to all boys and girls ages 9 – 13 (age as of 9/30/06). There are opportunities for teens, age 13 and above (as of 1/1/06), to serve as CITs and Teen Counselors. Informational flyers/ registration forms will be available in April, and early application is necessary to avoid disappointment. Contact the Extension Office (727-3435) if interested.

PLEASE HELP US TO SERVE YOU BETTER:

Please take a few minutes to complete the following surveys, so that we may better serve your needs in developing future 4-H programming. Please add any other comments or suggestions as well.

Survey for Parents of School-Aged Youth to Complete

Tell us about your school-aged children	Child 1	Child 2	Child 3	Child 4
Age				
Sex				
Grade				
School				

- 1) Have you heard of 4-H before?
If so, what comes to mind when you hear “4-H”?
- 2) How do your children usually spend their leisure time?
- 3) List any hobbies/interests that any of your children have:
- 4) List any organized activities (extracurricular activities at school, camps, clubs, teams, lessons, contests, etc.) in which your children participate:
- 5) Please check the type(s) of organized activities that you prefer for your children:

	On-going/ Year-round (clubs, scouts, lessons, etc.)		Occasional/Drop-in & Youth Center, Library Storytime, etc.
	Seasonal (sports, etc.)		Day Camps
	Short Term (class, workshop, etc.)		Residential Camps

Virginia Cooperative Extension Services *(Continued)*

- 6) What new activities/opportunities would you like to see for children in this community?
- 7) Would your children be likely to participate in a club that let them choose topics to explore and provided fun, hands-on learning experiences and opportunities to do community service and learn leadership skills?
Why or why not?
- 8) In what section of the county do you live (Town of Culpeper, Jeffersonston, Brandy Station, Rixeyville, Amissville, Reva, Stevensburg, etc.)?

IF you would like information about the opportunities that 4-H has for your children and/or yourself, as a volunteer, please provide your name and address or email address:

SURVEY FOR SCHOOL-AGED YOUTH TO COMPLETE
(Note: If you have more than one child, you may make copies of this form or have more than one child answer on this form by using different colors of ink/pencils)

- 1) How old are you?
- 2) What things do you do for fun in your free time?
- 3) What new things would you like to see for kids in this community to do?
- 4) Please check any of these activities that you enjoy doing and/or learning about.

	Archery		Dance		Hunting		Rockets/ Space	Others (List below)
	Art (drawing, painting)		Drama/ Acting		Insects		Science/ Technology	
	Babysitting/ Child care		Electronics		Jump Rope		Scrapbooks	
	Bicycling		Environmental Studies		Math		Sewing	
	Books/ Reading		Farming/ Ranching		Models/ Replicas		Shooting/ Guns	
	Business		Fashion/ Clothing		Music		Singing	
	Camping/ Outdoor Skills		Fishing		Needlework		Skateboarding	
	Careers		Flower Arranging		Nutrition/ Healthy Eating		Skiing	
	Collecting/ Hobbies		Foreign Cultures		Pets		Sports	
	Cooking/ Foods		Forestry/ Trees		Photography		Stamp Collecting	
	Community Service		Games		Public Speaking		Travel/ Sightseeing	
	Computers		Gardening		Puppetry		Wildlife	
	Consumer Issues		History		Puzzles		Woodworking	
	Crafts		Horses		Robotics		Writing	

- 5) Would you be interested in joining a club in which you’d choose a topic to explore and then try fun activities, learn new things, and help your community?
Why or why not?
- 6) Do you like to attend camps?
If so, what types of camps do you like best?

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, veteran status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation. Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND OPINIONS!
Return Surveys to: VCE-Culpeper, 101 S. West Street, Culpeper, VA 22701

Economic Development Office



COMMUNITY COMPLEX GRAND OPENING

The long awaited Community Complex at Route 666 and Route 29 Bypass will be the destination of choice on Saturday, April 1, 2006. Two years after proceeding on building a County arena and sports complex to meet the needs of our County youth, the celebration can now begin!

Grand opening ceremonies will include special speakers, refreshments, and a variety of activities. A Hit-a-thon will begin at 8:00 a.m., and team pictures will be taken all day for Little League Baseball. Special demonstrations by Lacrosse, Soccer, and Football teams are also planned. Don't miss this chance to be among the first group of people to see the joy on the faces of our youth, as they begin play in this brand new arena.

Local musician David Gilmore will perform at the ceremony and our own Greg Harpine's Band, "Brown Bag Special" will also be on hand to provide entertainment. A moonbounce and various giveaways will add to the festivities. A special sky-diving event is being planned for the kick-off to the Grand Opening. You won't want to miss this special event!

The Grand Opening of the Culpeper Community Complex coincides with Remembrance Days weekend in Culpeper. This event, celebrated for the first time in 2005 will begin with the Annual Meeting dinner of the Brandy Station Foundation at Brandy Fire Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 31. A concert of Civil War music performed by the duo "Oh Be Joyfull" from Gettysburg will include historical interpretations. The concert is scheduled for 4:00 –6:00 p.m. on Saturday evening. Remembrance Day will also include book signings at Graffiti House as well as a historical house tour. The Culpeper Department of Tourism will have a special booth at the Community Complex opening, to display historical anecdotes relating to sporting events in Culpeper. Information on all the special Remembrance Day activities occurring that weekend will also be available. For all the Remembrance Day activities, please visit the Department of Tourism website at www.visitculpeperva.com, or call Beth Bunch or Lori Sorrentino at the Culpeper Department of Tourism, 540-727-0611.

Don't miss this important event! For further information please call Culpeper Parks and Recreation at 540-727-3412.

Susie Updike for the Office of Economic Development



CULPEPER LITERACY COUNCIL

CONGRATULATIONS RECENT G. E. D. RECIPIENTS !!!



Daughter & Mother- Stacy & Pam Mitura



Jacenta Jenkins

The **Culpeper Literacy Council** was established **18** years ago to help adults develop their literacy skills. To them, we offer these **FREE** programs:

- One-on-one tutoring for adults who wish to improve their reading skills.
- General Educational Development (GED) instruction to get a high school equivalency diploma for adult learners attending daytime classes in our office **and** for inmates in the Culpeper County Jail. **(15 adults earned their GED diplomas while attending these classes this past year.)**
- Instruction in English as a second language. This includes one-on-one tutoring as well as software based instruction.

These programs are vitally important to provide educational opportunities for the adults in Culpeper's Town and County. Last year, our **46 volunteer tutors** contributed over **2,971 hours** serving the **113 adult learners** enrolled in all these programs. Our literacy services are cost-effective and driven by community needs.

We receive only about one-third of our operating funds from the Piedmont United Way and from the Town and County governments. Therefore, we need **tax-deductible donations** to meet our shortfall. Your donation will help us to enhance our programs, to purchase materials, and to conduct our daily operations so that our adult learners have the opportunity they need to succeed.

To volunteer, make a donation or
inquire about our services call
825-5804

415 South Main Street, Culpeper



Partner Agency
Piedmont United Way



**763 Madison Road, Suite 208
Culpeper, VA 22701
(540) 829-2065 x 308
www.healthyculpeper.org**

Healthy Culpeper is a collaboration of over 55 community partner agencies and organizations working together to create a healthy, secure, and educated community. Four committees work on community issues and they include Adult/Senior, Teen, Youth, and Early Childhood. Contact us if you would like to participate!

Early Childhood Local Action Plan

As part of a grant received from Culpeper County from NACO (National Association of Counties) and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Early Childhood Committee of Healthy Culpeper is developing an Early Childhood Local Action Plan. If you would like to share your views, please send us an email (addresses below) with your view on the following:

- What is the biggest challenge facing your family today?
- What are you able to do at home for your child/children to promote learning?
- What are the key experiences of a great early childhood that prepares children for school?
- What are the strengths and/or weaknesses of the early childhood experience in Culpeper?
- What are your suggestions for ways that Culpeper can better serve parents?



Empowering Culpeper Food Commodities Program— 2006 Distribution Dates

March 18th	April 15th	May 20th	June 17th	July 15th
August 19th	September 16th	October 21st	November 18th	December 16th

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Location: George Washington Carver Piedmont Educational Center
9432 James Madison Highway (Route 15)
Rapidan, VA 22733

Families that are income eligible will be enrolled to receive commodities on a monthly basis.

Please be there on time. Registration and distribution takes some time. For additional information or to access transportation, call (540) 825-9073. If you are interested in **volunteering**, please call (540) 948-5410.

**Event: *For a Child's Health*
Saturday, April 29th
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
At
Culpeper County Library**



**Cindy Colson, Executive Director, (540) 829-2065 x 308, colson@hfculpeper.org
Amy Wright, Administrator, (540) 727-0372 x 409, winnagw@cs.com**

Culpeper County Department of Health

Are You Prepared For A Pandemic Flu?

The Virginia Department of Health, along with your local health department, is working to increase Virginians’ knowledge about preparedness for the possibility of a pandemic (worldwide) flu outbreak. With increased media coverage about the spread of Avian Flu in Asia and other parts of the world, it is important to let residents know that the health department is working closely with our local emergency partners on pandemic flu preparedness here.

In recent months, the health department has led several tabletop drills that give local agencies and officials the opportunity to discuss pandemic flu preparedness with health department and hospital staff. Many experts believe that recent conditions lend themselves to the potential threat and are urging that communities and individuals should increase preparedness.

How can you increase your personal readiness in the event of an influenza pandemic? The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has issued the following Pandemic Flu Planning Checklist for Individuals and Families. This checklist can also be used to prepare for other threats such as hurricanes and severe winter storms.

- 1. To plan for a pandemic:
 - o Store a supply of water and food. During a pandemic, if you cannot get to a store, or if stores are out of supplies, it will be important for you to have extra supplies on hand. This can be useful in other types of emergencies also, such as power outages or floods.
 - o Ask your doctor and insurance company if you can get an extra supply of your regular prescription drugs.
 - o Have any nonprescription drugs and other health supplies on hand, including pain relievers, stomach remedies, cough and cold medicines, fluids with electrolytes, and vitamins.
 - o Talk with family members and loved ones about how they would be cared for if they got sick, or what will be needed to care for them in your home.
 - o Volunteer with local groups to prepare and assist with emergency response.
 - o Get involved in your community as it works to prepare for an influenza pandemic.
- 2. To limit the spread of germs and prevent infection:
 - o Teach your children to wash hands frequently with soap and water, and model the correct behavior.
 - o Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues and be sure to model that behavior.
 - o Teach your children to stay away from others as much as possible if they are sick. Stay home from work and school if you/they are sick.

3. Items to have on hand for an extended stay at home:

Food and non-perishables:

- o Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, vegetables, soups
- o Protein or fruit bars
- o Dry cereal or granola
- o Peanut butter or nuts
- o Dried fruit
- o Crackers
- o Canned juices
- o Bottled water
- o Canned/jarred baby food and formula (if applicable)
- o Pet food (if applicable)

Medical, health and emergency supplies:

- o Prescribed medical supplies like glucose and blood-pressure monitoring equipment
- o Soap and water
- o Alcohol based hand wash
- o Medicines for fever
- o Thermometer
- o Anti-diarrheal medication
- o Vitamins
- o Fluids with electrolytes
- o Cleansing agent/soap
- o Flashlight
- o Batteries
- o Portable Radio
- o Manual can opener
- o Garbage bags
- o Tissues, toilet paper, diapers (if applicable)

To learn more about Virginia’s pandemic flu preparedness plans, log onto the new web site that has the most up-to-date information regarding avian flu, as well as information on how residents can protect their businesses, families and communities from the threat of a pandemic, www.vdh.virginia.gov/pandemicflu. To learn more about local preparedness plans, or find out what you can do to become more involved, contact Kathy Hatter, Health Department Emergency Planner, at 540-948-5481 x23.

Lucy Caldwell, PIO
Virginia Department of Health, NOVA Region

Feral Hogs in Culpeper

On January 24, 2006, various State and Federal agency representatives, several local landowners, and interested hunters met to discuss possible solutions for eradicating Culpeper’s feral hog population.

Mr. Ron Hughes, Wildlife Biologist for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries considered the feral hogs “nuisance” wildlife and added that they could be baited, trapped and hunted Monday through Saturday, day or night as state law permits. Mr. Hughes explained that you cannot use any bait that may attract deer, turkey or bear, nor can you hunt them using a spotlight attached to a vehicle. Mr. Hughes encouraged the hunting of the feral hogs in hopes of decreasing their population.

Mr. Dave Blixt of the U.S.D.A. Wildlife Division also encouraged hunting of the feral hogs. He added that eradication of the total popula-

tion of the hogs would be a very difficult, if not impossible task.

Dr. Ronald King of the Virginia Department of Agriculture expressed concern regarding possible diseases that the hogs may carry that could be transmissible to domestic livestock. Dr. King encouraged hunters to collect vials of blood and take them to the Warrenton Regional Laboratory for testing.

Board of Supervisors member, Mr. Bill Chase explained that as with all “nuisance” wildlife, the Culpeper County Department of Animal Services (Animal Control) does not provide services for landowners with nuisance wildlife problems, but deal only with domestic animals and livestock. However, they can provide contact numbers for several agencies that may be able to answer your questions regarding wildlife problems.

Culpeper Department of Animal Services 540-547-4477.

Many area hunters have expressed interest in hunting the feral hogs. The following list presents those hunters who have volunteered to assist landowners in resolving the landowner’s feral hog problem. The hunters are not employees or agents of the County. The County has no knowledge of or responsibility for the qualifications or activities of the hunters; nor for the existence, health, or condition of the hogs. A current list is posted to www.culpepercounty.gov

Va. Sportsman - Mark Bonner 703-791-5449 or cell 703-791-3959
Va. Sportsman - Ray Lerner 703-670-2824
John Mullins, Chris Mullins cell 540-437-8554 (daytime) or home 540-743-7912
Fair Chase Hunt Club—Larry Commes 540-937-6044 or 540-272-5406
Rick Kelly, Jr., Rick Kelly, Sr., Austin Kelly 804-633-5575 or cell 540-850-4060
Jonathan Sampson cell 571-264-8007 or home 540-891-5443
Paul Bruce—937-6555—does not use firearms—uses dogs
Robert Saunders –540-869-0961 cell—703-296-4945
Ronald P. McDowell—wk 202-708-0614 ext 2757 Home 301-464-3241
Barry Buckley 540-788-3448 or 540-740-3929
Ira McDowell wk - 347-4914 or home 364-3873
Orville Tanner 540-905-0178 or 540-635-1904
William Wolff, Bobby Booker, Daniel Cousino 703-630-0899
Rodney Hawkins 547-4414
Roger Embrey 540-659-0927
Gary Langhorne 540-788-1443
Bob Lovett 703-407-4700 (cell)
Michael Carneal 703-928-7633
Penelope Vass - 540-718-0352
Justin Embrey 540-219-5054

Andy Payne - 540-832-3521
Greg Gulick - 540-788-1709
Tim Robinson -540-222-5352
Richard Bryce - 540-212-3926
Michael Plant 540-788-1719
Francis Curtis 540-373-5731
Sean Bradshaw 540-379-1934
Robert Hoffman 540-288-9406
Garnet Largent 540-635-8741
David May 540-636-9279
Shan Faggard 540-659-2072
Jimmy Hooper 547-4667
Doug Dickens 540-872-5911
Neil Aylor - 547-2546
Andy Wright 854-5229
Martin Barr & Sons 540-895-9468
Dean Jennings—571-436-0651
John Arnold—937-6676
Arthur Carrol 703-753-5277
Brian Scarbrough 825-0402

Rappahannock-Rapidan Medical Reserve Corps

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) was founded after President Bush’s 2002 State of the Union Address, in which he asked all Americans to volunteer in support of their country. The MRC is a specialized component of the Citizen Corps, a national network of volunteers dedicated to ensuring hometown security.

Our local MRC unit, the Rappahannock-Rapidan Medical Reserve Corps (RRMRC), was formed in July 2004. Since that time over 300 people in Culpeper and the surrounding counties have volunteered. RRMRC volunteers are people who want to donate their time and expertise to promote healthy living throughout the year and to prepare for and respond to emergencies. RRMRC volunteers supplement existing local emergency and public health resources.

The Office of the Surgeon General has outlined four key priorities for the health of individuals and the nation as a whole. One of these is to Strengthen Public Health Preparedness. By partnering with local emergency response agencies in preparing for emergencies the RRMRC is working to strengthen the public health infrastructure.

More volunteers are needed to assist in the event of a public health emergency. Please consider joining the Rappahannock-Rapidan Medical Reserve Corps today! You do not need to have medical training, and the time commitment is only 3-6 hours per year. Applications and more information can be found at <http://rrmrc.vdh.virginia.gov>.

The next orientation class will be held on March 30 at the Culpeper Rescue Squad from 6 PM to 9 PM.

For more information please call 540-829-7350 or email RRMRC@vdh.virginia.gov.

Have you become physically and/or verbally abusive to your spouse or significant other? Help is available. Contact Culpeper County Criminal Justice Services at 540-727-3450 for a referral to a treatment provider.



Movin' Dirt: A Landowner's Guide to Implementing Erosion Control Practices



This is an example of a site that lacks good erosion and sediment control practices.

Want to Move Dirt?

Excavating soil (or movin' dirt) can be an ugly and unpleasant reminder of the impacts of development. Exposed soil easily erodes and is transported downslope and downstream following rainstorms. Movin' dirt requires preventive measures to minimize soil loss onsite and deposition offsite. Erosion and sediment control programs are implemented by local governments in order to regulate land disturbances and minimize these negative impacts of soil erosion.

Understanding Erosion

Erosion is the wearing away of soils due to water, wind and gravity. Erosion occurs when soil is left unprotected from these forces of nature. Water has the greatest impact on erosion due to frequency and power of rainstorms. There are 5 types of water erosion:

1. Raindrop erosion is the initial impact of rain that dislodges soil particles.
2. Sheet erosion is the uniform removal of soil in thin layers due to sheet or overland flow.
3. Rills are caused by small concentrations of flow, usually a few inches deep, that transport detached soil.
4. Gullies are larger concentrations than rills and harder to repair.
5. Channel erosion is the removal of soil from the stream bank and bed.



An example of rill erosion.

How Can Erosion be Stopped?

Soil movement can be stopped in two ways: erosion control and sediment control. The combination of both approaches usually provides the best protection.

Erosion control prevents erosion from starting by minimizing the amount of soil exposed and exposure time. Erosion control measures include the immediate use of vegetative and artificial cover to stabilize bare and vulnerable surfaces. Ground cover protects against raindrops and disperses concentrated surface flows.

Sediment control reduces the effect of erosion on adjacent areas by trapping sediments onsite that are being transported by runoff. Sediment control measures include filter strips (vegetative or artificial), sediment traps and basins, diversions, dikes and silt fence to divert and filter sediments from entering clean water.



This is an example of diversion dike and silt fence. Note the vegetative stabilization on the dike.

What is a Land-Disturbing Activity?

Land-disturbing activities are defined as any form of clearing or excavation that changes or removes groundcover, exposing the soil to the erosive effects of rain, wind and gravity.

Most land-disturbing activities require a land-disturbing permit from the local county and an erosion and sediment control plan. Contact your county planning and development departments for more information.



Stabilization with vegetation and outlet protection.

Minimum Standards

The state of Virginia requires that **all** land-disturbing activities meet certain Erosion and Sediment Control criteria. These criteria are known as the *19 minimum standards* and can be found in the **Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook**.

The minimum standards are designed to maintain the following:

1. To stabilize the exposed soil as soon as possible with vegetation or artificial cover.
2. Minimize the changes in the natural drainage patterns and topography.
3. Protect and limit activities within and around natural streambeds.
4. Protect downstream and adjacent properties from erosion and damage due to flooding.
5. Provide for adequate drainage from the site after the land disturbance is completed.

Local county ordinances may have stricter standards regarding erosion and sediment control.

To acquire a copy of the Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook contact the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Virginia DCR has online information regarding Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook, Erosion and Sediment Control Law, minimum standards brochures and land-disturbing brochures. Visit the DCR website at: www.dcr.virginia.gov/sw/eands.htm.

Are you still thinking about Moving Dirt?

If you are intending to move dirt, contact your county's Planning and Zoning Departments for information on land-disturbing permits. For technical advice or questions contact the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District. Culpeper County Planning and Zoning: 540-727-3404
Greene County Planning and Zoning: 434-985-5282
Madison County Zoning Administration: 540-948-6102
Orange County Planning and Zoning: 540-672-4347
Rappahannock County Zoning Administration: 540-675-5330

**** For copies of the Movin' Dirt brochure, please call (540)825-8591.**

For more information about deicers, best management practices, reporting pollution, moving dirt & other issues regarding soil & water conservation please contact Stephanie Rose DeNicola, Communications Specialist of Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District at (540) 825-8591.

From Your Commissioner of the Revenue

Terry L. Yowell



There are a number of **Important Filing Deadlines** coming up for 2006:

April 1	Tax Relief for the Elderly & Disabled
May 1	Personal Property
May 1	Business Personal Property and Machinery & Tools
May 1	Virginia Income Tax (2005 tax year)
May 1	High Mileage (as of January 1) documentation
November 1	Land Use Program (new enrollment effective for the following tax year)

According to Culpeper County Code Section 12-2, “Every person owning personal property subject to taxation by the County shall file a return with the Commissioner of Revenue declaring the same on or before the first day of May in the year in which such property is subject to taxation by the County. For failure to file such return on or before such day the Commissioner of Revenue shall assess a penalty of ten percent (10%) of the amount of the tax otherwise assessed or two dollars (\$2.00), whichever is greater. Such penalty for late filing shall be due and payable at the time that the tax assessed is due and payable”.

COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE DIVISION OF REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENT UPDATE:

Our Real Estate Division is moving to the “Old Town Hall” building. Our office will be on the first floor. We have been given February 15 as the anticipated completion date. Please feel free to come by to visit us and see the new office.

The property inspections being performed by our Field Data Technicians continue in preparation for the 2007 general reassessment. As of mid-January 2006, the Technicians have visited over 9,500 properties.

By the middle of January 2006, our on-staff appraisers worked over 3,600 permits for various types of new construction. Over 750 of those permits were for buildings completed during 2005 which required supplemental assessments. This added more than \$63 million in new assessments to our tax base.

The staff of the Real Estate Division of our office is continuing the ongoing analysis of real estate sales. **The sales that occur through the third quarter of 2006 will establish our 2007 assessed values.** Our last general reassessment went into effect January 1, 2003. The average sold price of a residential unit on January 1, 2003 was \$207,000 with an average of 59 days on the market. On January 1, 2006, the average sold price of a residential unit was \$372,800 with an average of 38 days on the market.* Between January 2003 and January 2006 the average purchase price of a home increased 80%. Though we have not seen a decrease in selling prices, we have seen a stabilization of the market recently. By spring we will be able to determine if this stability is seasonal or a market trend.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please contact me.

*Real estate sales information taken from MRIS reports for Culpeper, VA

FEDERAL INCOME TAX FORMS NOTIFICATION:

In the last issue we let you know that the Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), will no longer provide federal tax form products to the local Commissioner of the Revenue offices. The IRS believes that electronic filing initiatives have changed the way taxpayers file returns and that the demand for paper forms “is at a declining period in its life cycle”. The CoR Association of Virginia pleaded with the IRS and will continue to do so, but this year the IRS declined to supply our offices with paper forms. From what we are told, you may still obtain Federal tax forms from Local US Post Offices and Libraries.

The IRS offers the following information for us to provide to you:

Patrons may access the website at www.irs.gov to search, print, or download tax forms, instructions, publications and information 24 hours a day. Tax information is available for individuals and businesses.

We will continue to receive state tax form products from the Virginia Department of Taxation

Office of the Commissioner of the Revenue
135 West Cameron Street, Suite 9
540-727-3443

Commissioner of the Revenue (Continued)

TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY:

Since you elected me your Commissioner of the Revenue, many of you have asked me to assess Business Personal Property using a depreciation schedule. Historically this type of property has been assessed using a minimum percentage of original cost, currently 50%. A minimum depreciation assessment method is not uncommon; several localities still use this method. For many years, a minimum assessment method was considered “business friendly” because assessment officials “did not tax new businesses right out of business in the first few years”. The first few years were, and still are, considered the most critical years of operation.

Pursuant to the [Code of Virginia §58.1-3503](#), *All Tangible Personal Property employed in a trade or business shall be valued by means of a percentage or percentages of original cost.* More and more localities are moving to a percentage depreciation method to better determine fair market value.

Beginning in 2007, my office will begin using a percentage depreciation schedule. The schedule we intend to use for Tangible Personal Property (including but not limited to: heavy construction machinery, hand tools, forest harvesting equipment, generating equipment, research and development equipment, furniture, fixtures, etc.) employed in a trade or business is listed below.

1 st year acquired (2006)	70% of cost	5 th year acquired (2002)	30% of cost
2 nd year acquired (2005)	60% of cost	6 th year and prior (2001)	20% of cost
3 rd year acquired (2004)	50% of cost	Minimum Assessment: 20% of cost	
4 th year acquired (2003)	40% of cost		

Pursuant to the [Code of Virginia §58.1-3503](#), *Programmable computer equipment and the peripherals used in business shall be valued by means of a percentage or percentages of original cost.* This is the schedule for programmable computer equipment and peripherals used in business:

1 st year acquired (2006)	65% of cost	4 th year acquired (2003)	30% of cost
2 nd year acquired (2005)	50% of cost	5 th year and prior (2002)	20% of cost
3 rd year acquired (2004)	40% of cost	Minimum Assessment: 20% of cost	

Any property acquired on January 1st of the tax year will be recognized at 100% of the acquisition cost.

Leased Property used in Business will be depreciated using the original acquisition date and the original contract price of such property.

Property subject to Resale (true **Arms Length Resale** involving used property) will be assessed at 100% of the acquisition cost for the first tax year. A 5% depreciation will be recognized each assessment year thereafter until such resale cost is reduced by 50%.

Property used in Business where the original acquisition date and/or cost is not available AND a field inspection has been made, the assessment of such property will be 100% of fair market value as determined by the Commissioner of the Revenue.

Each of the depreciation schedules are derived from a statistical average calculated using all of the percentage depreciation schedules that are currently used by counties throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Assessment methods can be found in the Tax Rates Publication as prepared by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service for Virginia Counties.

My goal is to assess all property in a fair and equitable manner which includes recognizing age, condition and technological obsolescence. I will need your help in making this percentage depreciation assessment method a success.

As indicated earlier, we are looking at 2007 as the effective year for the percentage depreciation assessment method. This will allow each business time to review this schedule and apply the schedule to your current itemized list of property. This schedule will have an impact for newly acquired (1-2 year old equipment) but will also impact older equipment still used in business. Each business will need to consider the immediate as well as the long-term effect. New businesses may experience an increase in assessed value while businesses using 10 year old equipment will experience a decrease.

Each year, a reporting form is mailed to every business (that we are aware of) around the end of March. We ask that you provide an itemized list of property giving the description, date acquired and original acquisition cost. If you have not provided this type of list in the past, we ask that you consider providing the requested information. A fair and equitable assessment can only be applied if you provide the necessary information to us. If you need help with this request, please contact me. If you need on site assistance, please contact me. If you need my help in arriving at a fair market value because you no longer have information OR you converted once personal property to use in a trade or business, please contact me. If you are not sure that the good or service you provide is considered acting in a trade or business, please contact me. At any time you have any questions, please contact me.

Reminder-this is a depreciation schedule for assessment purposes and not a tax rate

If you are interested in attending an informational meeting(s) to discuss this topic and engage in open dialog, please contact the Culpeper County Chamber of Commerce at 540-825-8628. Director Norma Dunwody has extended an invitation for me to speak with businesses on this topic. I am also registered as a member speaker for any topic you would like to hear more about concerning the functions and tasks of the office of the Commissioner of the Revenue.

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER
CULPEPER COUNTY
David L. DeJarnette, Treasurer

**Do not lose your State Reduction for
Personal Property Tax Relief!**

The Virginia General Assembly has enacted several changes to the Personal Property Tax Relief Act (PPTRA) and has fundamentally changed how you will receive tax relief on your “qualified personal use” vehicles after December 31, 2005. As a result of this change, limited tax relief funds are available and not guaranteed for unpaid tax bills on qualified vehicles for tax year 2005 and prior tax years. If your tax bill remains unpaid after the funds budgeted by the state for tax relief for 2005 and prior years have been depleted* or September 1, 2006, (*whichever occurs first), **you will be responsible for 100% of the original tax amount** in addition to penalties, interest and administrative fees that may apply.

EXAMPLE: A \$500 original tax bill for a qualifying vehicle could have received up to a 70% PPTRA tax relief adjustment. This would have resulted in a net tax due from the taxpayer of only \$150.00 if paid by December 5th of that tax year or \$150.00 plus penalty & interest if paid after December 5th. Should the state funds for PPTRA tax relief be depleted*, or after September 1, 2006 (*whichever occurs first), the tax bill due for this particular example would be the original \$500.00 plus all penalty, interest and fees. In this example, the taxpayer would lose \$350.00 of state-funded tax relief.



David L. DeJarnette

2006 Vehicle Decal Application:

2006 Vehicle decals go on sale March 1st and must be displayed on your vehicle by midnight of April 15th. To avoid waiting in long lines, return the mailed Application forms and your payment as soon as possible. Applications mailed after April 1st may not be processed and returned to you by the April 15th expiration date. All forms must be SIGNED, DATED and RETURNED regardless of whether a decal is needed, so that Personal Property tax liability, if any, can be determined.

Address Change:

It is important that the Office of the Treasurer have your correct mailing address. Our office is required to send out annual tax bills to the last known address of record in our office. If you have moved, changed addresses or contacted other governmental offices about an address change, we may not have your correct mailing address. Please call, stop by or e-mail our office in order to verify that we have your correct mailing for current and future tax billing periods.

Office hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday

Office located in the ground floor of the Courthouse building:
Culpeper County Treasurer
135 W. Cameron Street, Suite 7
Culpeper VA 22701

Phone: (540) 727-3442 Fax: (540) 727-3478 E-mail: ddejarnette@culpepercounty.gov

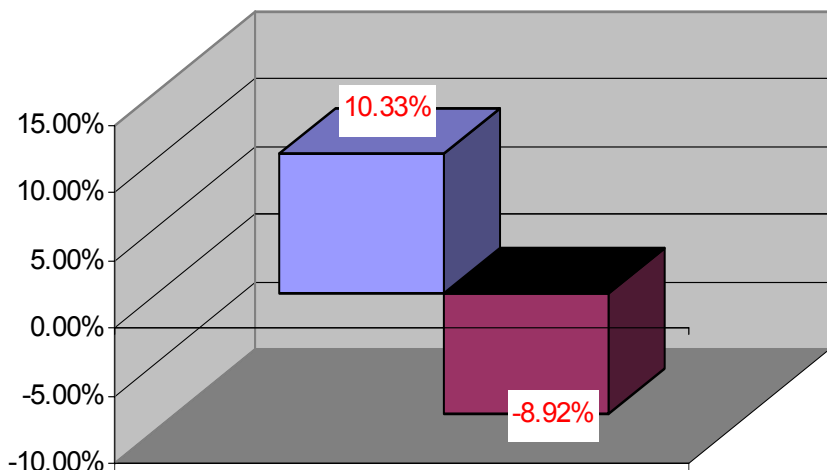


Culpeper County Sheriff's Office

H. Lee Hart, Sheriff

110 West Cameron Street Culpeper, Virginia 22701

Major Offenses vs. Calls for Service
2004 to 2005



Christmas with Kids

On December 17, 2005, local law enforcement officers from the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office, Culpeper Town Police, and the Virginia State Police met with over 100 deserving children to do some Christmas shopping. Over \$10,000 was spent on items the children picked out. This event was made possible through donations raised during Sheriff Hart's Annual Golf Tournament. Once again, thank you to all who contributed to make this event the success that it was.



Calls for Service Increase, Major Crime Decreases

For the year 2005, the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office answered 28,895 calls for service, up 10.33% from 2004. The major crime rate is down 8.92% from 2004, and solvability rate for major crimes in Culpeper County was 62.8%. The national average is between 30 and 40% solvability for major crimes. I am extremely proud of these figures and would like to thank the men and women of the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office for making this possible through their dedication and countless hours of hard work.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Corporal Jason Compton recently completed a one-year mission with N.H.T.S.A. Corporal Compton was selected as one of two Law Enforcement Officers in the United States to serve a one-year mission with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to study highway safety. Corporal Compton will use the knowledge gained during his mission to work on local traffic safety issues.



Culpeper Regional Airport

We are well into 2006, and I hope everyone had a GREAT New Year. It is hard to believe where the time goes. In January of every year, the Airport Advisory Committee elects a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman for that year. For 2006 the Airport Advisory Committee Chairman is Michael Dale and Vice Chairman is Bill Flathers. Mike has two planes based at the Airport and is also the Chairman for the Air Fest Subcommittee. Bill flies commercially and is a new member to the Advisory Committee. Both gentlemen bring years of aviation expertise to the table and will ably carry us through 2006. The Airport Advisory Committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Airport, and the public is welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings. The other members of the Committee are: Tony Dias, Bob Yeaman, Dave Franklin, Earl Long, Bill Chase (Board of Supervisor representative) and Steve Nixon (Board of Supervisor alternate representative).

The Construction project to join our newly rehabilitated and enlarged apron (located in front of the current terminal building) with our midfield apron, along with an automobile parking lot, was completed in the fall of 2005. In the last phase of that project a corporate hangar site preparation area was completed with water and sewer taps and enough space to construct a hangar as large as 20,000 sq. ft. or two smaller hangars. Presently, Austin Electric is working on the finishing touches for the Localizer on the field. This project was delayed last year, but it is a go for this year. The FAA has plans to fly the critical path in the spring, and the Localizer is scheduled to be operational by summer of this year.

In January, the Airport was given a unique opportunity to test an advancement in biometric technology utilizing ultrasound waves for fingerprint identification. Yes, this technology works much like the ultrasound that allows you to view an unborn baby growing in the mother's womb, only it is scanning for a fingerprint. It takes only a few minutes to log someone into the security database, and then you are set for future visits. This technology was not being used in the United States, and Securiport, the Washington, D.C. based company, is hoping that by using Culpeper Airport as a test center, they will be able to interest some of the other airports in this technology. What makes the Ultra-Scan so unique is that the machine can detect a fingerprint through dirt, grime, grease, etc. Most biometric readers use glass for the imaging, and your finger must be free of any dirt, and the reader must be cleaned constantly for proper viewing. While we are only on a trial basis, the Airport hopes that this technology eventually will be used to access gates, the terminal building, flight school and various other areas requiring secure access.



Leon Rector, Airport employee tries out the new Ultra-Scan technology.

Speaking of White Hawk Flight School Bob Harmon, Chief Flight Instructor, would like to congratulate the following students who completed certain aspects of their aviation schooling in 2005.

Students who Soloed (took off in the plane and landed without an instructor in the plane):

Kerr Chase
Martin Maziarz
Larry Hoffman
Rooney Anderson

(It is customary to cut the back out of their shirt and decorate it with the Solo date, name etc. These shirts are then hung up at the airport for all to see.)

Pilots who received their Private Pilot License:
M.T. Brown
Josh Flint

Pilots who received their Instrument Ratings:
Donald Maziarz
April Dugger

CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE!!!!

As always, if you would like to find out anything about our facility or White Hawk Aviation (Aircraft Maintenance and Flight School) just call us at the Airport, 540-825-8280. We are working together to help make your Aviation Dreams come to life.

**Culpeper County Regional Airport
12517 Beverly Ford Road
Brandy Station, VA 22714**

Visit our link from: www.culpepercounty.gov or call the Airport at 825-8280

CULPEPER MINUTES

A Publication of
The Culpeper County
Board of Supervisors



The Administration Building
302 North Main Street
Culpeper, VA 22701

Phone: 540-727-3427

Fax: 540-727-3460

email: dhoffman@culpepercounty.gov

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SPRING 2006

CULPEPER MINUTES

ISSUE TWENTY-THREE

George Washington Carver Piedmont Technical Center Offers Training and Certification in Operation of Heavy Equipment



Telephone Number for Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT): 540-829-7500
To report Road Hazards or Snow-Flood Conditions: 800-367-7623 Toll Free